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AUTHOR Morris, Frances J.
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ABSTRACT

Interests in articulation by students and graduates of the nine medical laboratory technology programs in Kentucky were surveyed. Articulation refers to transfer between programs or institutions and increased opportunities for career mobility and advancement. The 131 respondents to a questionnaire indicated: their interest in articulation, marital status, employment in a laboratory, ultimate career goal, interest in performing tests at bench, enrollment in a college program other than medical technology, completion of a four-year degree, current medical technology enrollment, and main reasons for nonenrollment in medical technology. Students' interest in articulation did not seem to change over time from initial enrollment to the time of employment in the clinical laboratory. Eighty percent of current students and graduates indicated an interest in articulating if a definite career ladder were developed. The largest percentage of both groups indicated that their ultimate career goal was that of performing tests at the bench. The largest number of responses for nonenrollment in a medical technology program were location of the programs, followed by finances. The questionnaire is appended, along with information on coding the student interest survey. (SW)

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MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN STUDENT & GRADUATE

ARTICULATION INTEREST STUDY

Frances J. Morris

Summer 1982

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY/COMPARISON Sheet..... 1

INTRODUCTION..... 2

PROCEDURES..... 3
- Student Survey..... 3
- Graduate Survey..... 3
- Statistical Methods..... 3

FINDINGS..... 4
- Student Interest..... 4
  - Overall Interest..... 4
  - Sex..... 5
  - Marital Status..... 5
  - Career Goal..... 5
  - Employment..... 5
  - GPA..... 6
  - First Choice Institutions..... 7
  - Reasons for Selecting Institutions..... 8
  - Student Profile..... 10
- Graduate Interest..... 10
  - Program Attended..... 10
  - Age..... 12
  - County of Residence..... 12
  - Sex..... 13
  - Marital Status..... 13
  - Final GPA..... 14
  - Employment Status..... 16
  - Career Goal..... 19
  - Enrollment in College..... 21
  - Already Completed Degree..... 22
  - Current MT Enrollment..... 22
  - Reason Not Enrolled..... 23
  - Plans for Financing..... 25
  - First Choice Institution..... 26
  - Reason for Selecting Institution..... 28
  - Comments..... 30

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS..... 31

RECOMMENDATIONS..... 32

APPENDIX A..... 34

APPENDIX B..... 39

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Summary/Comparison Sheet for CLS Students and Graduate Interest Survey

Responses	Student	Graduate
Number Analyzed Program Response	131	106
EKU	24	6
HCC	18	23
JCC	16	0
MAVTS	9	0
Mdwy	13	15
MSU	13	2
SCC	21	21
SECC	9	21
WC	13	9
Interest In Articulation	105 (80%)	93 (80%)
Marital Status	36 (30%) Married	51 (48%) Married
Employment in Lab	18	89
Ultimate Career Goal:		
Performing Tests at Bench	48%	37%
Enrollment in College Program Other than Medical Technology	NA	8
Completion of 4 Year Degree	NA	4
Current MT Enrollment	NA	6
Top reasons for non-enrollment in MT:		
Location	NA	35
Finances	NA	34

INTRODUCTION

In the fall of 1978 the Kentucky Council on Higher Education was awarded a grant from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop a statewide articulated system for allied health education. Part of the development of the system was planning to develop career ladders and programs for the educational advancement of students and clinicians in the clinical laboratory sciences. These programs were designed to 1) minimize the loss of academic credit when transferring from one educational program or institution to another, 2) provide increased opportunity for career mobility and job advancement, 3) provide advanced placement opportunities by recognizing previous education and training and 4) improve student counseling regarding career options and transfer possibilities.

As plans were being made to develop the theoretical framework for developing and negotiating transfer agreements several concerns were expressed by faculty members. One primary concern was expressed in the following question: "Are there sufficient numbers of students desiring to transer to warrant the time and effort required to negotiate agreements?"

DEVELOPMENT OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

In the Fall of 1980 at a meeting of the University of Kentucky Community College System Coordinators, the possibility of surveying current MLT students and graduates was discussed. Council staff had developed a first draft of a survey instrument which was changed to reflect interests of MLT Coordinators as well as Council staff. This survey instrument (Appendix), with minor changes was used to survey current students and graduates in the nine MLT programs in the Commonwealth.

STUDENT SURVEY

Survey forms were sent directly to program coordinators who then distributed them to students, collected completed forms and returned them to the Council in the self-addressed, stamped envelopes provided for this purpose.

GRADUATE SURVEY

A total of two hundred thirty-eight survey forms were mailed to graduates of Medical Laboratory Technician Programs at Eastern Kentucky University, Henderson Community College, Jefferson Community College, Murray State University, Midway College, Somerset Community College, Southeast Community College and Watterson College. The other two Medical Laboratory Technician programs in the state, Jefferson Community College and Madisonville Area Vocational Technical School did not respond to the request for permission to survey their graduates.

STATISTICAL METHODS

The Chi square test was performed to determine whether or not a relationship existed between desire to articulate and program attending, sex, age, marital status, career goal, employment and G.P.A. (self reported). However, because of the small number of responses (131) and the resultant distribution, over 20% of the cells had expected counts of less than five. Thus, the resultant Chi square may not be valid. For this reason this report will focus on frequency and percentage data only.

FINDINGS

STUDENT INTEREST

Overall Interest in Articulation

The total number of students from the nine MLT programs responding was 131. Of these, 80% or 105 students indicated that if a definite career ladder were established and they could get credit for MLT course work, they would consider enrolling in a Medical Technology program. The break down of respondents and "yes" responses was as follows:

Program	Total	Number Yes	Percent Yes
EKU	24	18	75%
HCC	18	11	61%
JCC	16	12	75%
MAVTS	9	8	89%
Midway	13	11	85%
MSU	13	11	85%
SCC	21	20	95%
SECC	9	7	78%
WC	13	11	85%

Sex

Of these 131 respondents, 114 or 87% were female, 17 or 13% were male. As to interest in articulation, 90 or 79% of the females were interested and 15 or 88% of the males were interested.

Marital Status

Thirty-six of the respondents were married and of these, 30 or 83% indicated an interest in articulation; of the 94 not married, 75 or 80% indicated an interest in articulation.

Career Goal

The largest percentage of all the respondents (62 or 48%) indicated a career goal of performing lab tests at the bench. Further, of those interested in articulation, 43% indicated this same career goal, the next highest (24 or 23%) indicated laboratory department head followed by (17 or 16%) indicating laboratory supervisor or administrator as their career goal. Other areas "written in" and the number mentioning them were:

1. X-Ray technologist - 1
2. Chemical engineer - 1
3. Pre-med. - 1
4. Veterinary Science - 1

Employment

A total of 18 students currently had jobs in the medical laboratory field and 83% of them or 15 were interested in articulation. Of those 37 employed in areas other than the lab (31 or 84%) were interested in articulation. These areas outside

the lab and the numbers employed in them were:

1. Sales Clerk - 13
2. Food Service - 11
3. EMT - 2
4. Receptionist - 1
5. Police Department - 1
6. Mining - 1
7. Self-employed - 1
8. Racquetball Club - 1

GPA

The highest frequency (35) reporting an interest in articulation had a self-reported GPA of 3.1-3.5. The breakdown looked like this for those interested in articulation:

GPA	Number Interested
Below 2.0	3
2.0-2.5	18
2.6-3.0	33
3.1-3.5	35
3.6-4.0	14

First Choice Institutions

Students were asked to indicate their first, second and third choice institutions if they were to continue their education in the Clinical Laboratory Sciences. Reasons for selection of these institutions were also requested.

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Students' first choice institutions are reflected in the following table.

	EKU	HCC	JCC	MATV	MuSU	MDWY	SCC	SECC	WC
Asbury		1				1			
Campbellsville	2		1				1		
Cumberland								1	
Ky. Wesleyan		1							
Pikeville	1								
Spalding			1						
Union								1	
EKU	10						5	1	
KSU						1			
MoSU	1						1		
MuSU				1	8	1			
NKU						1			
UK	2	5		1	1	1	7	1	
U of L	1		10						6
WKU	1	2		2		1			

The reasons for selecting an institution for either first, second, or third choice and the number of students listing this as a reason follow.

Asbury College

1. Home town - 1
2. Small school - 1

Campbellsville College

1. Location - 4
2. Reputation - 1

Centre College

1. Reputation - 1

Cumberland College

1. Location - 3
2. Reputation - 2
3. Size - 1

Kentucky Wesleyan College

1. Location - 3
2. Reputation - 1

Pikeville College

1. Location - 2
2. Reputation - 1

Spalding College

1. Location - 4
2. Reputation - 3
3. Catholic School - 1

Union College

1. Location

Eastern Kentucky University

1. Currently enrolled there - 12
2. Location - 8
3. "I like it" - 3
4. Reputation - 3
5. Size - 2
6. Cost - 2
7. They have an MLT Program - 1
8. Offer variety of programs - 1
9. Have friends there - 1

Kentucky State

1. Location
2. Have a friend there - 1

Morehead State University

1. Location - 2
2. Morehead's working on MT Program that should be better than UK's - 1
3. Have friends there - 1

Murray State University

1. Location - 9
2. Already enrolled there - 3
3. Reputation - 3
4. Read their literature - 1
5. Familiar with area - 1
6. Nice campus - 1
7. Friends there - 1

Northern Kentucky University

1. Location - 3
2. A friend went there - 1

University of Kentucky

1. Location - 21
2. Reputation of university - 10
3. Reputation of MT Program - 8
4. Size - 3
5. Have taken courses that will transfer - 4
6. Variety of program offered - 2
7. Cost - 1
8. Relatives there - 1
9. Possibility of work - 1
10. Public school - 1

University of Louisville

1. Location - 17
2. Reputation - 4
3. MT program reputation - 3
4. Like the campus - 3
5. Have friends there - 1

Western Kentucky University

1. Location - 10
2. Reputation - 5
3. Know a lot of people there - 3
4. Future husband wants to go there - 1
5. Athletics - 1

Others

UI - Close to home
ISUE - Location
Madisonville Community College (CLA) - Location
SMU - Advanced ewuipment
University of Cincinnati - Location
Western Michigan - Wouldn't enroll in another Kentucky University

Student Profile

Individualized profile of all students selecting a college or university as first choice was developed for these universities and colleges. This profile was broken down by program in which currently enrolled and included career goal, self-reported GPA, date of graduation, marital status, birth date and sex. A copy of these profiles was provided to each university or college.

GRADUATE INTEREST

Of the two hundred thirty-eight forms sent out, eighteen were returned by the U.S. Postal Service and one hundred eleven (51% return rate) completed forms were received. Of these one hundred eleven, five were received after the data had been submitted for analysis, resulting in one hundred six forms actually being analyzed.

When respondents were asked if they would consider enrolling in a medical technology program if a definite career ladder existed to grant them credit for MLT courses, 7% stated they were not interested, 13% did not answer this question and 80% responded that they would consider enrollment.

MLT Program Attended

Breaking the respondents down by MLT program, 100% of Watterson College graduates, 91% of Henderson Community College

graduates, 90% of Southeast Community College graduates, 87% of Midway College graduates, 60% of Somerset Community College graduates and 50% of Murray State University and Eastern Kentucky University graduates indicated an interest in enrollment in a medical technology program if a career ladder existed (Table 1).

TABLE 1. INTEREST IN ARTICULATION BY PROGRAM ATTENDED

PROGRAM	CONSIDER	NOT CONSIDER	NO RESPONSE
EKU (N=6)	50%	0%	50%
HCC (N=23)	91%	4%	5%
MSU (N=2)	50%	50%	0%
MdWY (N=15)	87%	7%	6%
SCC (N=21)	67%	9%	24%
SECC (N=21)	90%	0%	10%
WC (N=9)	100%	0%	0%

Age

Of the 84 graduates who indicated an interest in enrollment in a medical technology program, 44 (52%) were in the 21-25 year old age bracket. The 26-30 year old age bracket consisted of 31 graduates (37%) interested in articulation. The remaining graduates were spread out over the 31-42 age bracket, all of them being interested in articulation.

TABLE 2 INTEREST IN ARTICULATION BY AGE

INTEREST	21 - 25 (N = 44)	26 - 30 (N = 31)	31 - 42 (W = 9)
Not Consider	5%	2%	0%
Not Reported	12%	1%	2%
Consider	44%	31%	9%

County Of Residence

The largest percentage of graduates who indicated they would consider enrolling reported Harlan County as their residence (14 reporting), followed by Henderson and Jefferson Counties (10 each), Fayette (9), and Daviess and Pulaski (6 each). The remainder of the graduates reported living in thirty other counties and 10 reported living out-of-the state.

Sex

The respondents consisted of 98 females and ô males. All seven of the respondents indicating that they would not consider enrolling were female.

TABLE 3. INTEREST IN ARTICULATION BY SEX

INTEREST	FEMALE	MALE
Not Consider	7	0
Not Reported	15	0
Consider	76	8

Marital Status

Of the seven females reporting they wouldn't consider enrolling, four were married, three unmarried.

The eighty four respondents who would consider enrolling were evenly divided: forty one were married, forty one unmarried; two did not report their marital status.

TABLE 4. INTEREST IN ARTICULATION BY MARITAL STATUS

INTEREST	MARRIED	NOT MARRIED	NOT REPORTED
Not Consider	4	3	0
Not Reported	6	9	0
Consider	41	41	2

Final GPA

One question on the survey form requested the final Grade Point average (G.P.A.). Forty-six of the respondents (43%) reported a final GPA between 3.1 and 3.5. Of these forty-six graduates, one reported that they would not consider enrolling if a career ladder did exist; three respondents reporting a 2.6 - 3.0 GPA, two respondents reporting a 2.0 - 2.50 GPA and one reporting a 3.6 - 4.0 GPA also stated that they would not consider enrolling if a career ladder did exist.

TABLE 5. INTEREST IN ARTICULATION BY SELF-REPORTED FINAL GPA

INTEREST	NOT REPORTED	2.0 - 2.5	2.6 - 3.0	3.1 - 3.5	3.6 - 4.0
Not Consider	0	2	3	1	1
Not Reported	0	1	3	6	5
Consider	2	2	22	9	19

A breakdown of final reported GPAs by MLT program is presented below in Table 6.

TABLE 6. FINAL GPA BY PROGRAM ATTENDED

PROGRAM	2.0-2.5	2.6-3.0	3.1-3.5	3.6-4.0	Not Reported
EKU (N=6)	17%	67%	0%	16%	0
HCC (N=23)	0	13%	44%	43%	0
MdWY (N=15)	0	33%	54%	13%	0
MSU (N=2)	50%	50%	0	0	0
SCC (N=21)	5%	33%	43%	9%	0
SECC (N=21)	5%	24%	48%	14%	9%
WC (N=9)	0	22%	33%	45%	0

Employment Status

Respondents were asked to indicate whether or not they were employed and if they were employed, whether it was full time or part time, in the medical laboratory field or another area. Of the 106 respondents, 93 or 88% reported that they were employed. Breaking this out by MLT program attended, the range was from 100% (N=2) of the Murray graduates employed to 78% (N=9) of Watterson College graduates employed; 100% of Murray graduates employed were full time to 26% of Henderson graduates reporting part time employment; all of the Henderson graduates that were employed were employed in the medical laboratory area while 22% of Watterson graduates reported employment in areas other than the lab; of the employed Henderson graduates responding, 91% worked in Kentucky; Eastern and Murray graduates reported 50% working outside Kentucky. (Table 7).

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TABLE 7. MLT EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM

PROGRAM	Employed Yes	Employed No	Full Time	Part Time	In Lab	Other	In KY	Out KY
EKU (N=6)	83%	17%	67%	17%	83%	0%	33%	50%
HCC (N=23)	96%	0%	74%	26%	100%	0%	91%	9%
MdWY (N=15)	80%	20%	80%	0%	73%	7%	60%	13%
MSU (N=2)	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%	0%	50%	50%
SCC (N=21)	95%	5%	86%	10%	86%	10%	76%	5%
SECC (N=21)	86%	14%	86%	0%	86%	5%	57%	29%
WC (N=9)	78%	22%	56%	22%	56%	22%	67%	11%

Of all the unemployed graduates, two indicated that they would not consider enrolling, while nine others indicated they would consider enrolling. Of the employed, five would not consider and 74 would consider enrolling in medical technology if a definite career ladder were established.

TABLE 8. INTEREST IN ARTICULATION BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS*

INTEREST	UNEMPLOYED	EMPLOYED	EMP. IN MED LAB	OTHER EMPL	FULL TIME	PART TIME
Not Consider	2	5	5	2	5	2
Not Reported	1	14	13	2	11	4
Consider	10	74	71	13	65	10

*Some graduates did not respond to all questions regarding employment status.

Those persons not currently employed in the medical laboratory were asked the reason for not working in the area in which they were educated. Six persons (from Midway, Somerset, Southeast and Watterson) indicated that there were no jobs available. Other reasons listed are included in Table 9.

TABLE 9. REASONS NOT PRACTICING MLT

REASON	NUMBER REPORTING
No Jobs	6
Family Obligations	4
Better Pay & Hours	1
Disabled (Kidney Transplant)	1
Lack of Experience	2
Promotion	1

The areas of employment reported by these graduates included histology, law enforcement, key punch, rate analyst, associate sales clerk, and dairy lab.

Career Goal

Survey respondents were asked to indicate their ultimate career goal. The largest percentage (37%) of the graduates indicated that their career goal was performing laboratory tests at the bench. The second most popular goal was that of laboratory department head (18%) followed by laboratory supervisor (17%). Table 10 breaks this data out by program.

TABLE 10. ULTIMATE CAREER GOAL BY PROGRAM

PROGRAM	CLS EDU	CLS RESEARCH	LAB DEPT HD	LAB SUPER	PERFORM LAB TESTS	SALES	OTHER
EKU (N=6)	17%	0%	0%	33%	33%	0%	0%
HCC (N=23)	4%	0%	13%	30%	22%	4%	13%
MSU (N=2)	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
MdWY (N=15)	0%	0%	40%	7%	27%	0%	20%
SCC (N=21)	0%	0%	10%	19%	52%	0%	10%
SECC (N=21)	5%	5%	19%	5%	48%	0%	10%
WC (N=9)	0%	22%	33%	22%	22%	0%	0%

Ultimate career goals other than those goals listed on the survey form are displayed in Table 11. Of the nine respondents, five have listed career goals in the area of the health sciences and three of these within the clinical laboratory.

TABLE 11. OTHER CAREER GOALS

CAREER GOAL	NUMBER REPORTING
Nursing	2
Assistant Laboratory Supervisor	2
Trucking Industry	1
Electrical Engineer	1
Microbiologist	1
"Getting out of Dairy"	1
"Making More Money"	1

Of those who would consider enrolling, 35% have indicated that performing lab tests is their career goal, 17% lab department head, 16% lab supervisor and 14% reported "Other" career goals.

Enrollment in College Program, Not MT

A total of eight graduates indicated current enrollment in college with a major other than Medical Technology. Three of these are majoring in biology, one each in business administration, electrical engineering, nursing, and "undecided". (See Table 12).

TABLE 12. ENROLLMENT IN OTHER THAN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

PROGRAM	BIOLOGY	BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	ELECTRICAL ENGINEER	NURSING	UNDECIDED
EKU	-	-	-	-	-
HCC	1	-	-	-	-
MdWY	1	-	1	-	-
MSU	-	-	-	-	-
SCC	-	-	-	-	-
SECC	1	-	-	-	-
WC	-	1	-	-	1

Already Completed Degree

Four respondents indicated that they had already completed a degree, two in biology, one in medical technology and one not specified.

Current Medical Technology Enrollment

Of the 106 survey respondents, six reported that they were currently enrolled in a medical technology program. One graduate from the Eastern MLT program and one graduate from the Somerset program reported enrollment in the Eastern Medical Technology program; one graduate from Somerset and one uncoded respondent

reported enrollment at the University of Kentucky. A Southeast Community College graduate was enrolled at Cumberland College and an Eastern graduate was enrolled in an out-of-state college.

Three graduates responded that they plan to enroll in a medical technology program immediately, twelve plan to enroll within two years and 59 others plan to enroll in the future but were uncertain as to when this will occur. (Table 13).

TABLE 13. PLANS TO ENROLL IN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

PROGRAM	IMMEDIATELY	WITHIN 2 YEARS	UNCERTAIN
EKU (N=6)	17%	0%	50%
HCC (N=23)	0%	9%	57%
MdWY (N=15)	7%	20%	46%
MSU (N=2)	0%	0%	50%
SCC (N=21)	0%	10%	52%
SECC (N=21)	0%	5%	71%
WC (N=9)	0%	22%	78%

Reasons Not Currently Enrolled

Respondents not already enrolled in a medical technology program were given seven options for reasons they were not enrolled. Location of Medical Technology programs and financial reasons were the top two reasons for non-enrollment. (See Table 14).

TABLE 14.

RESPONSES FOR REASONS FOR NON ENROLLMENT*

PROGRAM	FAMILY OBLIGATION	MT PROG LOCATION	FINANCES	NOT INTERESTED	TAKES TOO LONG
EKU	0	1	1	0	2
HCC	9	13	5	0	3
MdWY	4	0	8	0	2
MSU	0	0	0	0	0
SCC	5	8	3	2	4
SECC	6	10	9	0	3
WC	2	3	8	0	2
COLUMN TOTALS	26	35	34	2	16

*Some respondents listed more than one reason.

Other reasons for non-enrollment were work schedule (3) and residency status (2). One respondent wrote "After looking at the MT program at U of L, I decided it would be easier and more beneficial for me to get a bachelor's degree and sit for MT Registry."

Plans for Financing

The MLT program graduates who indicated they would consider enrolling were asked how they planned to finance their education. Sixty percent said they would work, twenty five percent said BEOG, twenty four percent plan to use personal assets. (Table 15).

TABLE 15

PLANS FOR FINANCING EDUCATION*

PROGRAM	BEOG	LOAN	PERSONAL ASSETS	SCHOOL	WORK	OTHER
EKU	1	1	2	0	4	0
HCC	2	2	7	2	12	1
MdWY	7	3	3	1	9	0
MSU	0	0	0	0	1	0
SCC	7	4	5	1	15	1
SECC	4	8	5	2	12	2
WC	4	3	1	0	5	0

*More than one response was possible.

Two other respondents listed two other means of payment, tuition reimbursement at work and GI Bill.

Reason for Continuing Education

MLT graduates who would consider enrolling were asked why they wanted to continue their education. The highest percent of responses was personal fulfillment (25%), followed by completion of B.S. degree, (15%), intellectual achievement (14%), financial gain (13%), more responsible role (13%), job security (13%), status (3%), teaching (2%), and administration (.5%).

Selection of Four Year Program

Respondents were asked to indicate their first, second and third choice of medical technology programs if they were to continue their education as well as their reason for selecting the program. The first choice programs are exhibited by frequency in Table 16. The reasons given for indicating a program as first, second or third choice follow Table 16.

TABLE 16. GRADUATES FIRST CHOICE
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Med. Tech. Program	MLT Programs							Row Total
	EKU	HCC	MdWY	MuSU	SCC	SECC	WC	
Asbury			1					1
Brescia		1						1
Cumberland					1	2		3
EKU	2		2		5	3		12
Ky Wesleyan		2						2
Morehead	1		1					2
Murray				1				1
Northern					2			2
Spalding							1	1
Thomas More					1			1
U of K		3	3		5	2		13
U of L	1		1				5	7
Union						4		4
WKU			1					1
Other	3				1	5	2	11
Column Totals	7	6	13	1	11	16	8	62

REASONS FOR SELECTING A COLLEGE AS EITHER, FIRST,SECOND OR THIRD CHOICE WITH FREQUENCIES

Asbury

1. Christian - 1

Brescia

1. Location - 7

Campbellsville

1. Location - 2

Centre

1. Location - 1
2. Attended in Past - 1

Cumberland

1. Location - 9
2. Attended in Past - 1

Georgetown

1. Location - 1

Kentucky Wesleyan

1. Location - 9

Pikeville

1. Location - 1

Spalding

1. Location - 5
2. Size - 1
3. Curriculum - 1

Thomas More

1. Location - 1

Union

1. Location - 10

Eastern Kentucky University

1. Location - 17
2. Reputation - 4
3. Like the Campus - 2
4. Attended MLT Prog. - 1
5. Friends There - 1
6. Would like to relocate - 1
7. Family went there - 1
8. Size - 1
9. Cost - 1
10. Articulated - 1

Kentucky State University

1. Location - 2

Morehead State University

1. Reputation - 7
2. Location - 5
3. Beautiful Campus - 2
4. Horsemanship Program - 1
5. Atmosphere - 1

Murray State University

1. Location - 3
2. Attended there before - 4

Northern Kentucky University

1. Location - 3
2. Cost - 2

University of Kentucky

1. Location - 15
2. Affiliated with Community College System - 4
3. Familiarity with campus - 2
4. Reputation - 1
5. Medical Center - 1
6. Cheaper - 1
7. Work opportunities - 1
8. Like Lexington - 1

University of Louisville

1. Location - 10
2. University hospital - 2
3. Reputation - 2
4. Would like to live in Louisville

Western Kentucky University

1. Location - 4
2. Reputation - 2
3. Like campus - 1

Others

1. Lincoln Memorial University: Location - 3
2. Community Colleges: Location - 8
3. University of Tennessee: Want to move to Knoxville - 1
4. Indiana State University: Location - 1

COMMENTS

Even though there was no space set aside on the questionnaire for an open ended response, six respondents wrote notes on the bottom or top of the questionnaire or on the flap of the envelope. These are their comments:

1. "I am very interested in the program being planned for MLT advancement. I would like to receive some follow-up on the programs designed."

2. "Thank you for your concern."

3. "Thanks for the opportunity to be heard."

4. "This questionnaire struck a very responsive note with me. Would like to see some institutions offering courses on weekends only. This would permit MLT's like me who work full time to take classes without interfering with work. Would like to see UK offer this since it would be more economical than a private school."

5. "Dear Sirs: I am attending class part-time at U of L because I intend to complete a bachelors degree eventually. I feel your idea is not only beneficial but only reflects good sense on your part. Thank you for the consideration. I am terribly interested! I would complete my MT if it were possible for me without completely starting over. I am taking basic elective courses because MT is only available to full-time students."

6. "When I graduated if there had been a program where I could have gone two more years and gotten a MT degree, I would have. I feel there should definitely be something done to improve this problem."

Summary/Conclusions

The amount of interest in articulation, based on the responses of current students and graduates of Medical Laboratory Technician Programs does not seem to change from the time the student is enrolled in MLT programs to the time of employment in the clinical laboratory. Both 80% of the current students and 80% of the graduates responding to the survey indicated an interest in articulating if a definite career ladder were developed.

Similarly, the largest percentage of both students and graduates indicated that their ultimate career goal was that of performing tests at the bench. Interestingly, in order to achieve this goal, additional education to be come a medical technologist is not required since all medical laboratory technicians employed in clinical laboratories are already qualified to perform tests at the bench.

Marital status did not appear to affect the graduates' interest in articulation (an equal number of married and single people were interested in articulation; four married were not interested and three single were not interested). Since a large percentage (92%) of the graduates indicating an interest in articulation are women and almost half of them are married (48%) whether or not they considered the possibility of leaving their families to further their education when they indicated an interest in articulation is unknown.

Percentage wise, Eastern and Murray had the largest percentage (50%) of graduates employed out of state. However, the total number of respondents for these programs was also low (6 and 2,

respectively). When looking at actual frequencies, Southeast Community College had the largest number of graduates (6) employed outside of Kentucky.

Again, percentage wise, Murray had the largest percentage of graduates employed (100%). However, there were only two respondents who had graduated from Murray. Henderson and Somerset with 96% and 95% respectively reported the largest employment. The program with the least number of graduates reporting employment was that of Watterson College. Further, only 56% of the Watterson graduates who are employed reported employment in clinical laboratories, while 100% of the Henderson graduates reporting employment also reported employment in the clinical laboratory.

Recommendations

The largest number of responses to reason for non-enrollment in a medical technology program were location of medical technology programs (N=35) followed by finances (N=34). Since there seems to be an acute interest in articulation among graduates of MLT programs, it would seem that it would be in the better interest of one or two medical technology programs to investigate the possibility of taking some courses out into the rural areas, especially since there seems to be a decline in the number of applicants to all Allied Health Programs. This would also eliminate a lot of financial strain on the part of the MLT because they would be able to continue with full-time employment. These programs could possibly be located in the areas of largest concentration of graduates indicating an interest in articulation: Harlan, Henderson, Daviess and Pulaski Counties. These courses could be set up in a manner similar to the extended campus courses

Central Michigan University, providing several concentrated hours of instruction on the weekend.

Provision for part-time students should also be made in the four-year programs. Weekend and night classes on campus could meet the needs of many of these MLT graduates desiring articulation.

APPENDIX A

SURVEY FORM

Dear Student:

A group of medical technology educators and clinicians are planning to develop career ladders and programs for the educational advancement of students and clinicians in the field of medical technology. These programs are being designed to:

- Provide increased opportunities for career mobility and job advancement.
- Minimize the loss of academic credit when transferring from one educational program/or institution to another.
- Provide advanced placement opportunities by recognizing previous education and training.
- Improve student counseling regarding career options and transfer possibilities.

To help us in our planning, please complete the following questionnaire. You and your institution have been carefully coded to preserve your anonymity. No student specific data will be reported, your responses will be grouped and only averages and other grouped statistical values will be reported.

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

MLT STUDENT SURVEY
1982

Place of Residence _____ / _____
(1-3) City (4-5) State

(6-7) Year of Birth 19____ (8) C. Sex: ____1. Female ____2. Male (9) D. Marital Status: ____1. Married ____2. Not Married

(10-11) What year will you graduate as a MLT? 19____

(12) What is your current Grade Point Average?
- ____ 1. Below 2.0
- ____ 2. 2.0–2.5
- ____ 3. 2.6–3.0
- ____ 4. 3.1–3.5
- ____ 5. 3.6–4.0

(13) Are you currently employed? ____1. Yes ____2. No

(14) If you are employed, are you employed in:
- ____ 1. Medical Laboratory Field
- ____ 2. Another Area: _____ (please specify)

(15) If you are employed, are you employed:
- ____ 1. Full-time?
- ____ 2. Part-time?
- ____ 3. In Kentucky? ____ Yes ____ No

(16) What is your ultimate career goal?
- ____ 1. Performing laboratory tests at the bench
- ____ 2. Laboratory Department Head
- ____ 3. Laboratory Supervisor/Administrator
- ____ 4. Clinical Laboratory Sciences Educator
- ____ 5. Sales Representative for Technical Company Serving Laboratories
- ____ 6. Clinical Laboratory Sciences Researcher
- ____ 7. Other _____ (please specify)

(17) If you are not currently enrolled, if a definite career ladder were established so that you would get credit for your MLT courses and complete your degree sooner, would you consider enrolling in a medical technology program?
- ____ 1. Yes
- ____ 2. No

IF YOU DO NOT EVER INTENT TO ENROLL IN A MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM, PLEASE STOP HERE.

IF YOU PLAN TO ENROLL, PLEASE CONTINUE.

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L. If you intend to enroll in the future, from the following list of schools with Medical Technology Programs, please indicate your first, second, and third choices by writing the number of the school in the appropriate blank.

_____ First Choice (18-19) _____ Second Choice (20-21) _____ Third Choice (22-23)

PRIVATE COLLEGES

01. Asbury College
02. Brescia College
03. Campbellsville College
04. Centre College
05. Cumberland College
06. Georgetown College
07. Kentucky Wesleyan College
08. Pikeville College
09. Spalding College
10. Thomas More College
11. Union College

PUBLIC COLLEGES

12. Eastern Kentucky University
13. Kentucky State University
14. Morehead State University
15. Murray State University
16. Northern Kentucky University
17. University of Kentucky
18. University of Louisville
19. Western Kentucky University
20. Other _____ (please specify)

M. What reason(s) influenced your first choice? _____

_____

N. Your second choice? _____

_____

O. Your third choice? _____

_____

P. (24) How are you/do you plan to finance your education? Please check all that are applicable?

____ 1. BEOG ____ 3. Personal Assets ____ 5. Work
____ 2. Loan ____ 4. Scholarship ____ 6. Other _____ (please specify)

DATA CODING FORMAT

FOR

STUDENT INTEREST SURVEY

	Variable	Code	Columns
(1)	Place of Residence (County)	See Attached Sheet #1	1-3
(2)	State	See Attached Sheet #2	4-5
(3)	Year of Birth	19 (Actual Year)	6-7
(4)	Sex	(1) Female (2) Male	8
(5)	Marital Status	(1) Married (2) Not Married	9
(6)	Year of Graduation	19 (Actual Year)	10-11
(7)	Current Grade Point Average	(1) Below 2.0 (2) 2.0-2.5 (3) 2.6-3.0 (4) 3.1-3.5 (5) 3.6-4.0	12
(8)	Employment Status	(1) Yes (2) No	13
(9)	Area of Employment	(1) Medical Laboratory (2) Other	14
(10)	Employment	(1) Full Time (2) Part Time	15
(11)	Ultimate Career Goal	(1) Performing lab tests at bench (2) Lab Dept. head (3) Lab Super/Admin. (4) CLS Educator (5) Sales Rep (6) CLS Researcher (7) Other	16
(12)	Consider Enrolling in MT	(1) Yes (2) No	17

Variable	Code	Columns
13. First Choice MT Program	01. Asbury College 02. Brescia College 03. Campbellsville College 04. Centre College 05. Cumberland College 06. Georgetown College 07. Kentucky Wesleyan College 08. Pikeville College 09. Spalding College 10. Thomas More College 11. Union College 12. Eastern Kentucky University 13. Kentucky State University 14. Morehead State University 15. Murray State University 16. Northern Kentucky University 17. University of Kentucky 18. University of Louisville 19. Western Kentucky University 20. Other	18-19
14. Second Choice MT Program	Same as 13 above	20-21
15. Third Choice MT Program	Same as 13 above	22-23
16. Educational Financing	(1) BEOG (2) Loan (3) Personal Assets (4) Scholarship (5) Work (6) Other	24-29
17. Program Currently Attending	(1) Central Baptist (2) EKU (3) HCC (4) JCC (5) SCC (6) MSU (7) SECC (8) MAVTS (9) WC	32